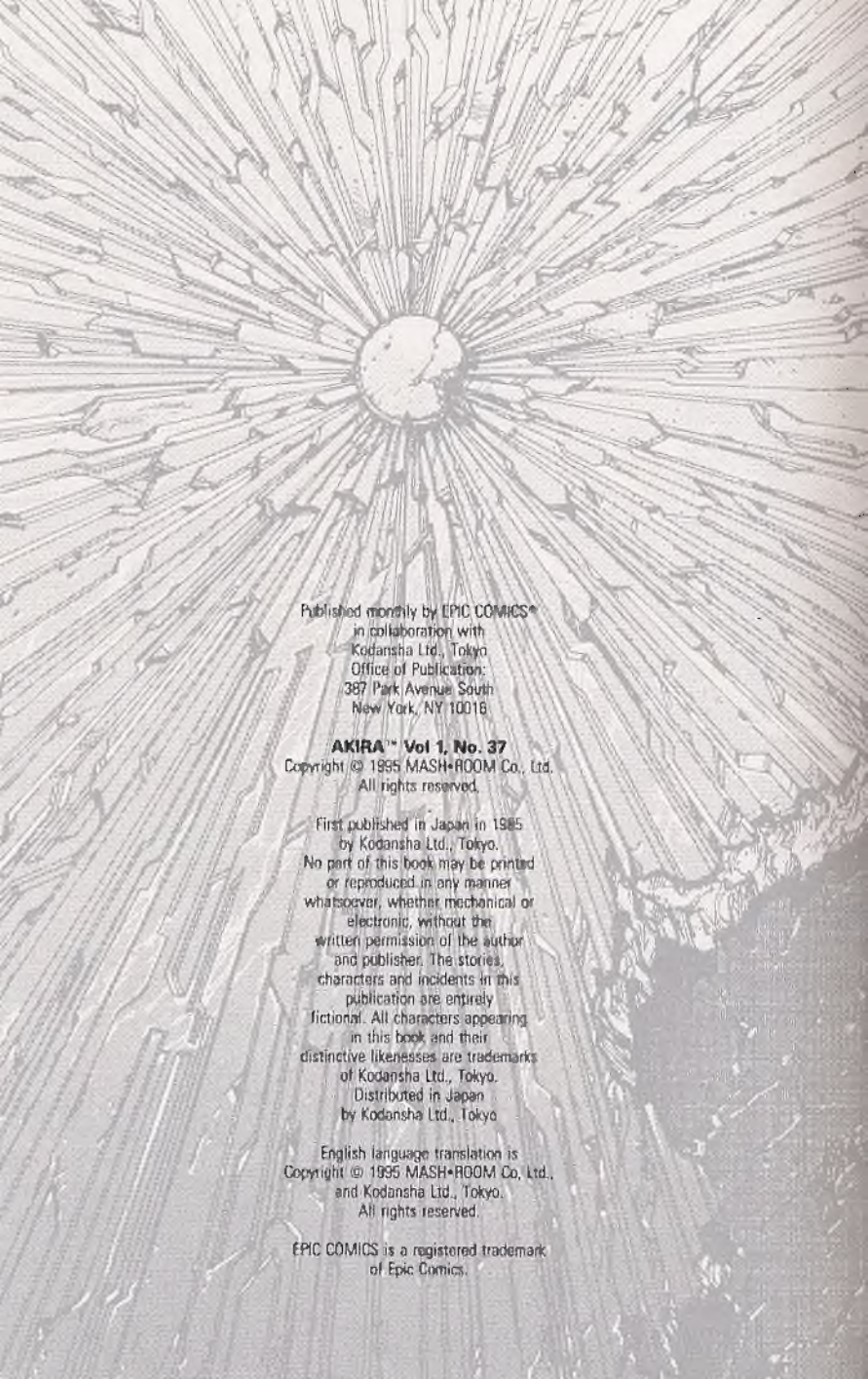




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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 37

EVOLUTION

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each one was identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako** — Number 19 — now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28 — **Akira**, a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Now Japan exists

in a state of emergency. The force of the army and the resistance are scattered and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's **Olympic Stadium**. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on **Tetsuo's** forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster. When the fleet sends fighter planes against **Tetsuo**, he uses a satellite to destroy their flag-

ship, forcing the surviving military personnel and scientists to flee.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**. **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers as one.

Kaneda teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a friend and rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of refugees and street rats to help **Kay** in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on, drawn by the similarity of Tetsuo's powers to his own.

Tetsuo is griefstricken over the death of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**. He carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. **Akira** follows and is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored Tetsuo's humanity. Then, Tetsuo's power comes surging back and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified at what might occur if **Akira** awakens fully, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine. **Kay** follows in hot pursuit. **Lady Miyako** instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**, and the pair teleport away to help their friend. **Lady Miyako**, her followers, and **Kay** prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

Kiyoko and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane. They are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before.

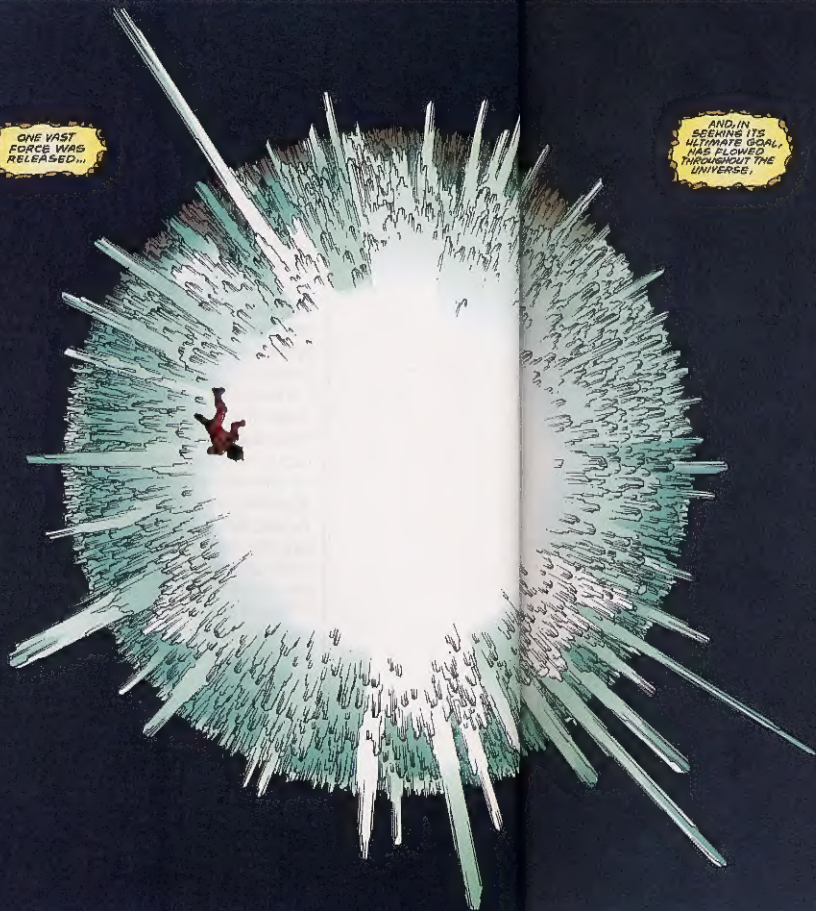
Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, **Lady Miyako** heroically draws **Tetsuo** to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await.

Kay is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands, and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by the force of Akira's mind.

Trapped within Tetsuo's soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships. He shares with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

Kaneda is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she tells him. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, along with all the catastrophe they bring, are a vital part of mankind's evolution.

ONE VAST
FORCE WAS
RELEASED...



AND, IN
SEEKING ITS
ULTIMATE GOAL,
HAS FLOWED
THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSE.

THE
POWER
HAS
DISSIPATED
AND SPREAD
TO MANY
OUTLETS...
ITS SEEDS
LYING
DORMANT
IN THEIR
INDIVIDUAL
MEMORIES.

YOU
MEAN
THAT
TETGLIO
AND
AKIRA'S
POWER
IS
REALLY...?!

BUT
THEN
WHY'S IT
ALWAYS
SO DESTRUCTIVE?



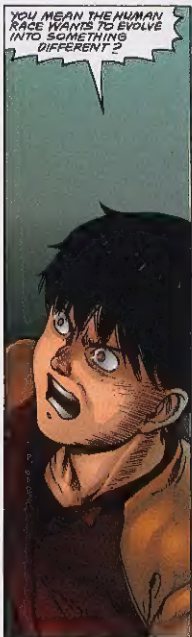
THE HARDSHIPS
AKIRA GENERATED
MAY BE MEANT
TO PROMOTE
HUMANITY'S
EVOLUTION...



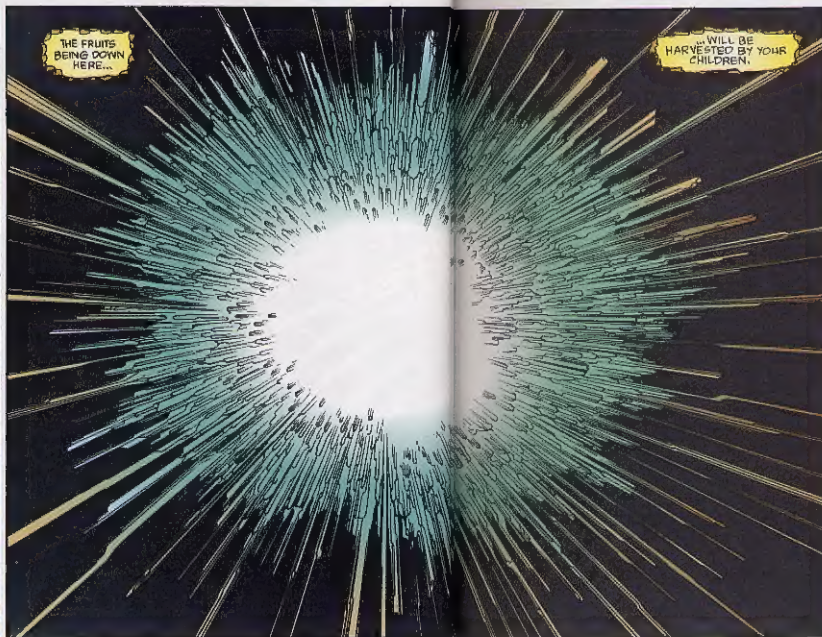
WHAT THE HELL FOR?!
EVEN EVOLUTION IS
A PROGRAMMED
FLOW, ISN'T IT?!



CAN YOU DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THE
HUMAN SPIRIT TO CHOOSE THE PATH
OUR DEVELOPMENT WILL FOLLOW?!



YOU MEAN THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO EVOLVE
INTO SOMETHING
DIFFERENT?!



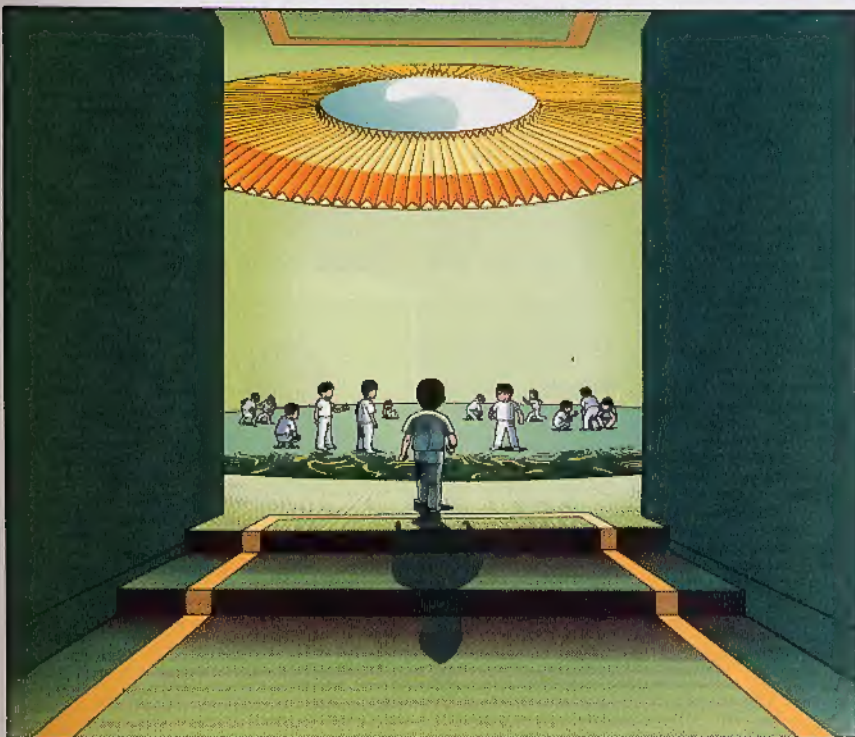
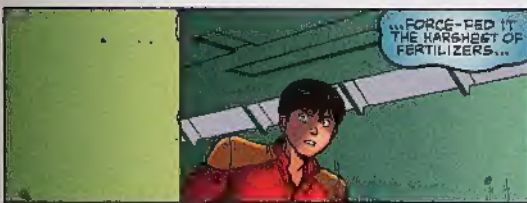
THE FRUITS
BEING DOWN
HERE...

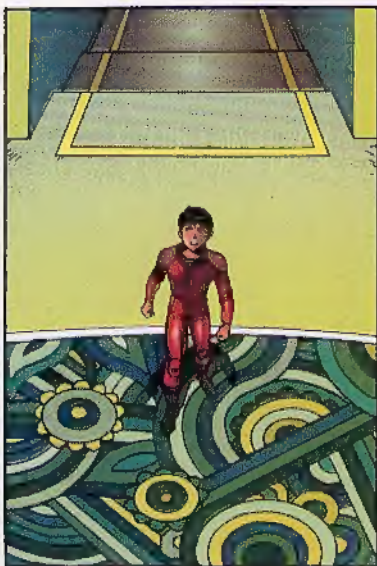
IT WILL BE
HARVESTED BY YOUR
CHILDREN.



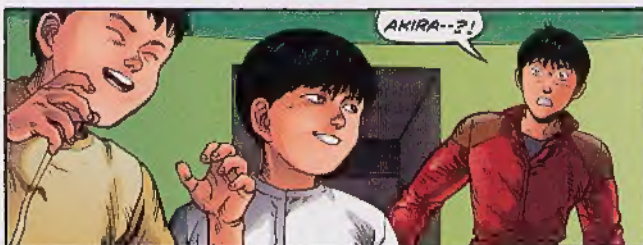
THAT IS TOTAL BULLSHIT!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT
TETSUO AND THOSE
SHRIVelled WHITE MUTANT
KIDS FROM THE LAB ARE
SOMETHING THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO BE!



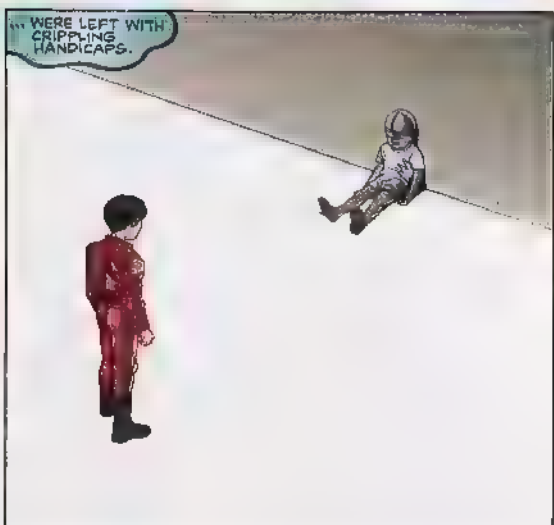
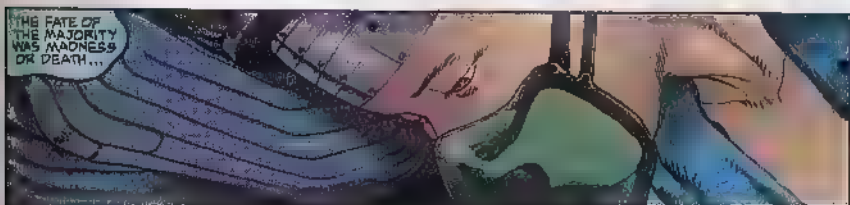
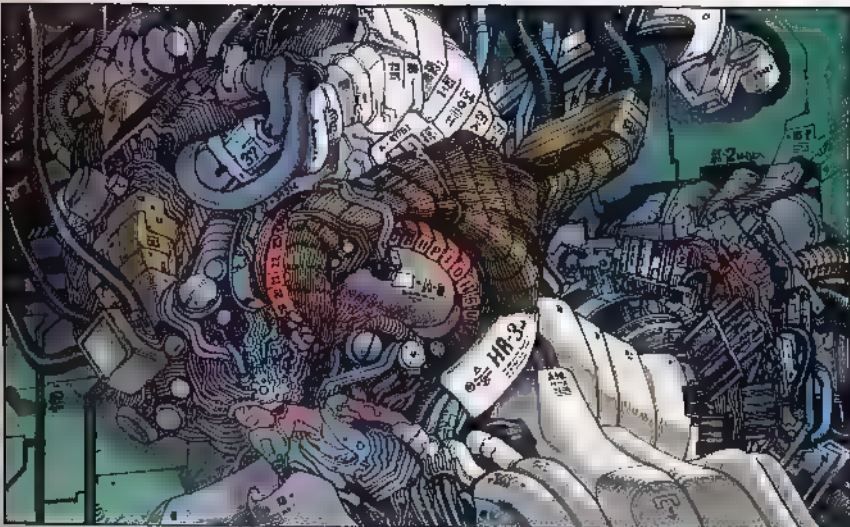


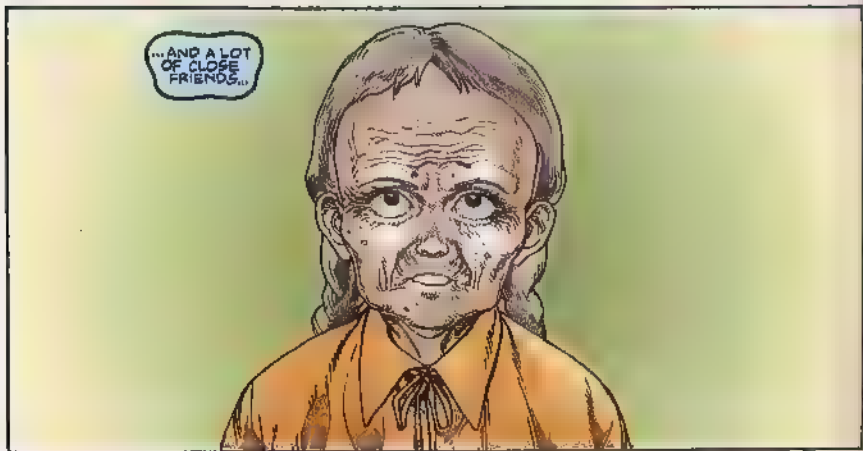
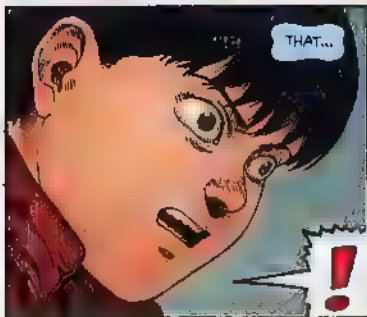
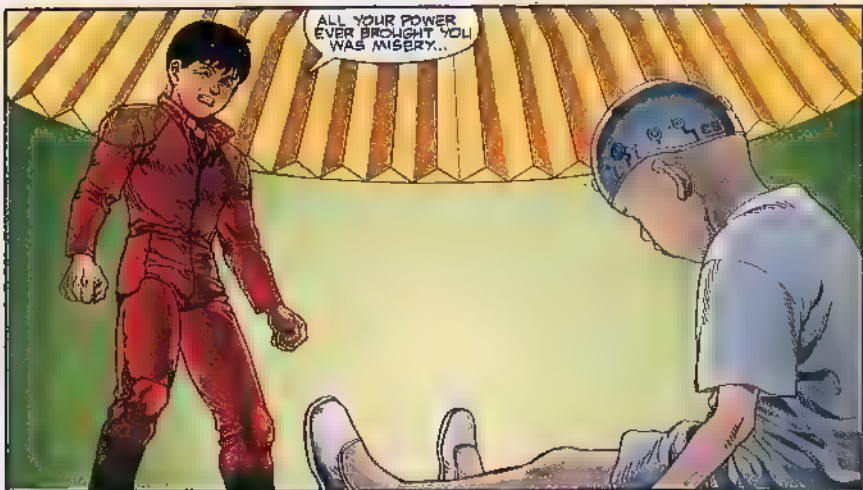


THIS IS THE
FIRST ROOM IN
WHICH THEY
HOUSED THE
CHILDREN WHO
SHOWED THE
SIGNS...



AND THEN THE
EXPERIMENT
BEGAN.





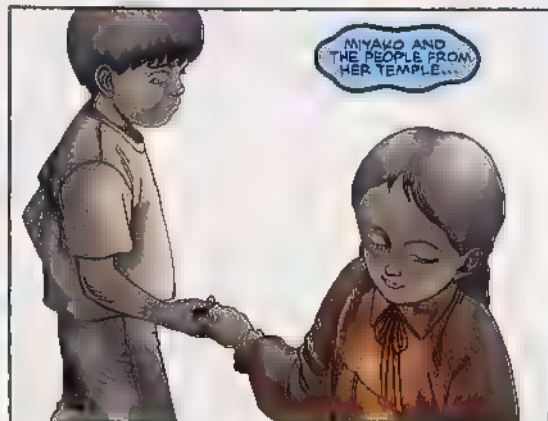


...WHO CAN
COMMUNICATE
WITHOUT
WORDS...

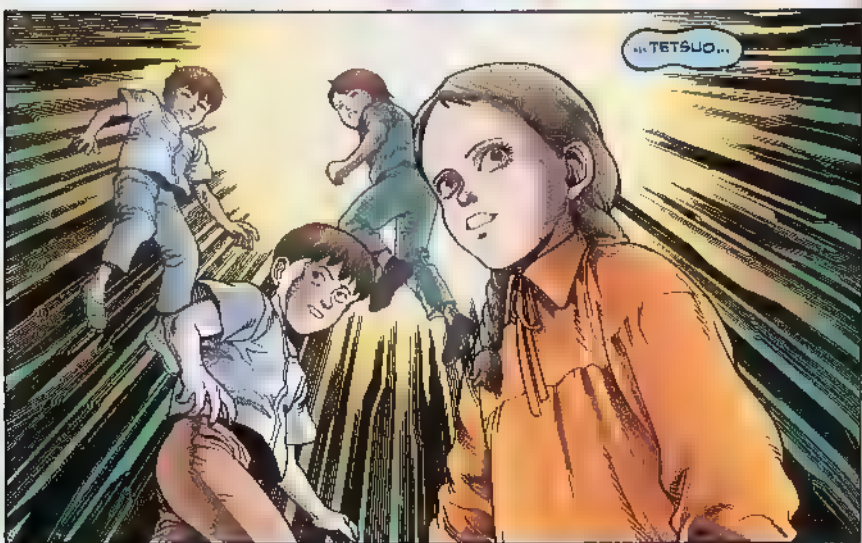
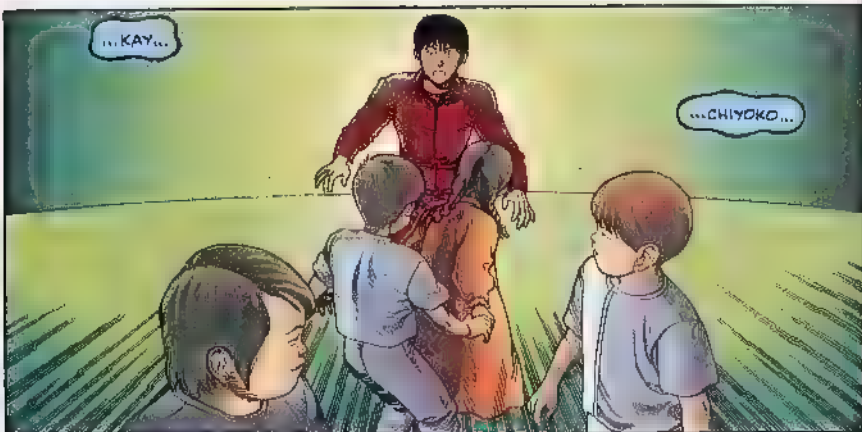
...SPEAKING
TO EACH OTHER'S
SPIRITS.



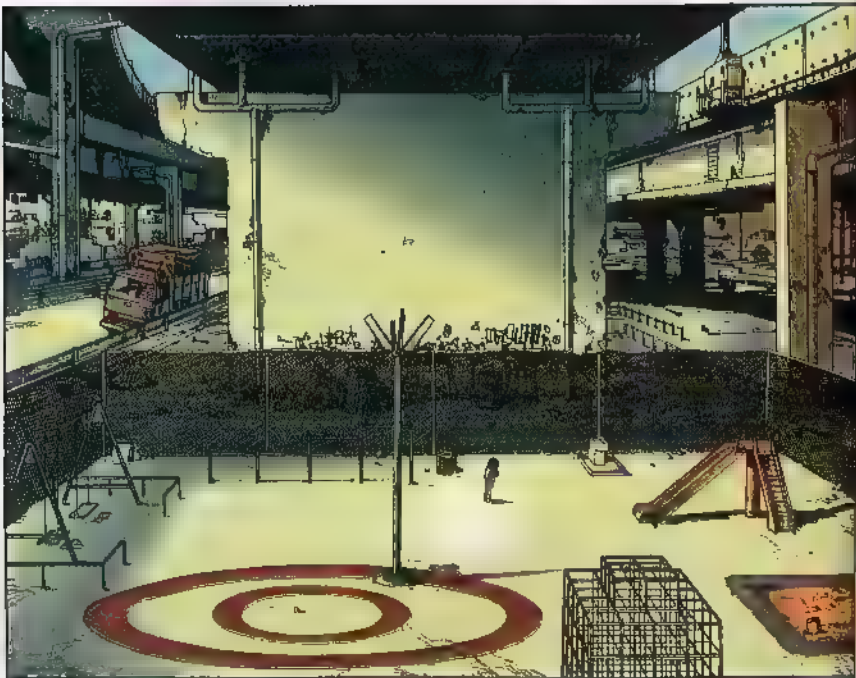
JUST WHO
ARE YOUR
FRIENDS?



MIYAKO AND
THE PEOPLE FROM
HER TEMPLE...

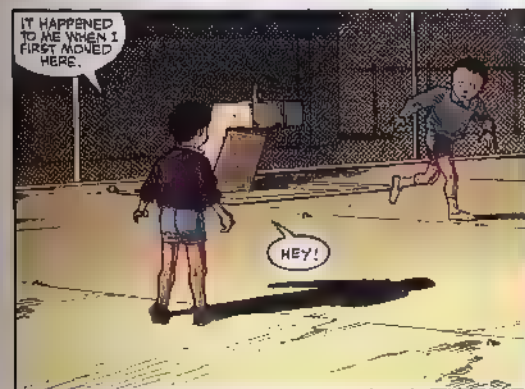
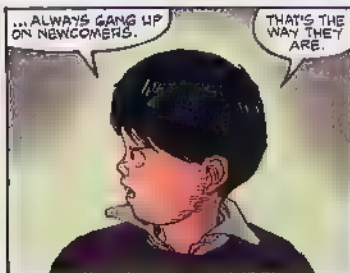
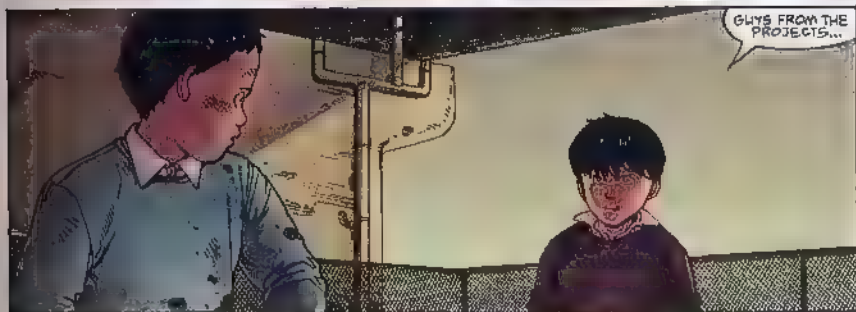
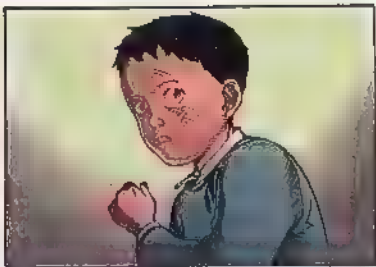


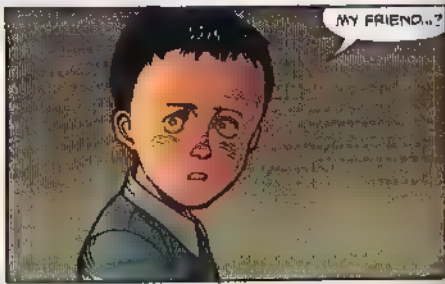
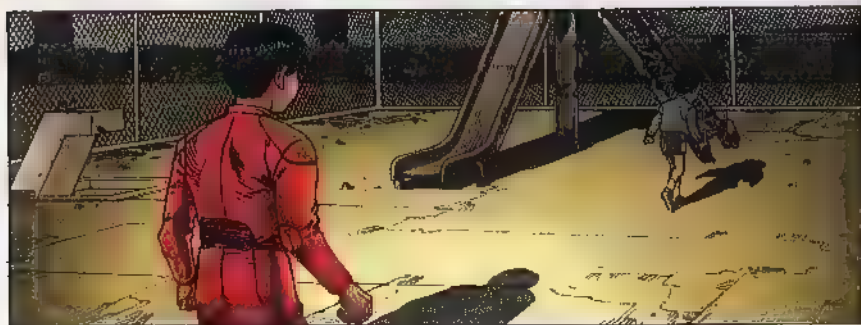
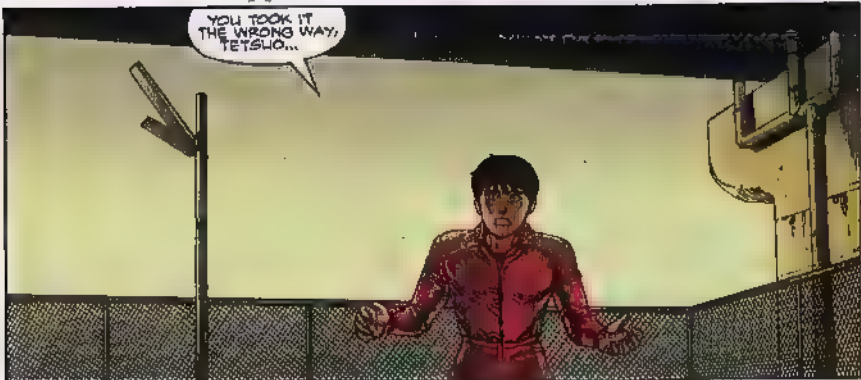


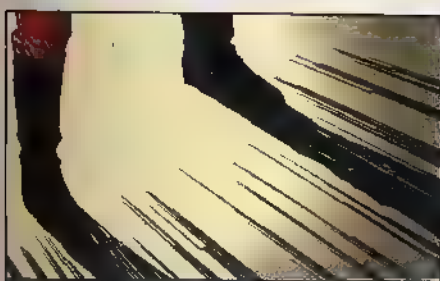
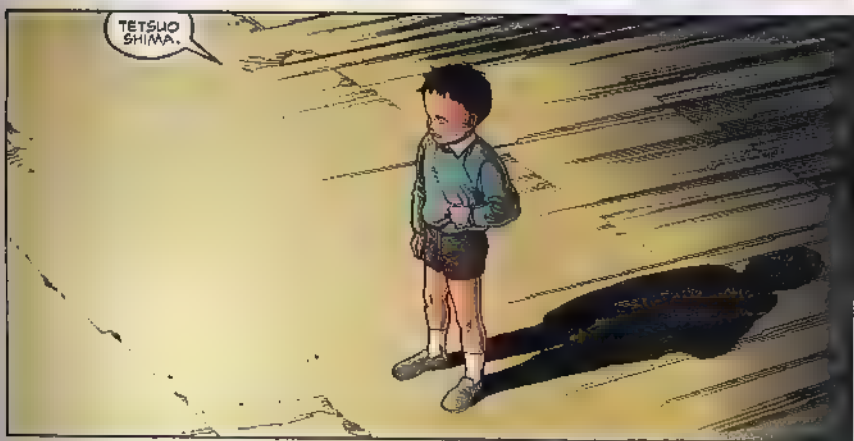
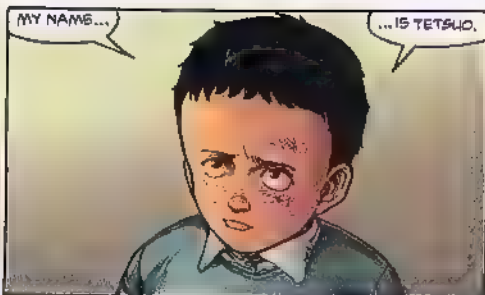


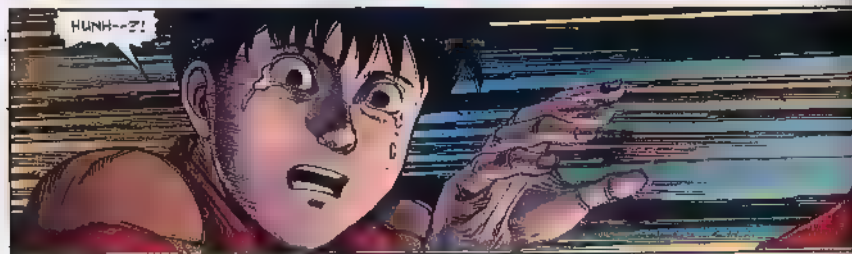
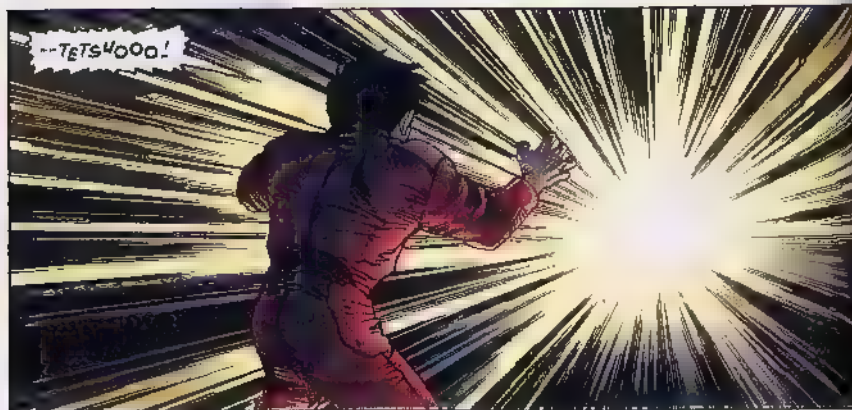
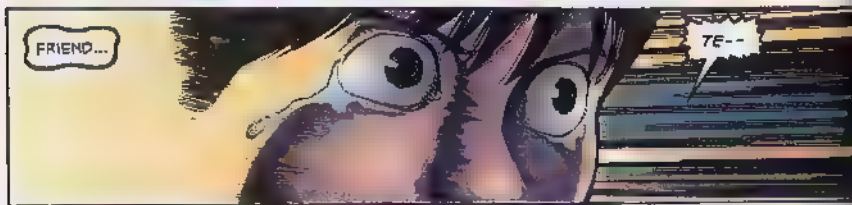
THIS PLAYGROUND
LOOKS LIKE...













KA...

.....



KA...

KA...NEDA...

KA...

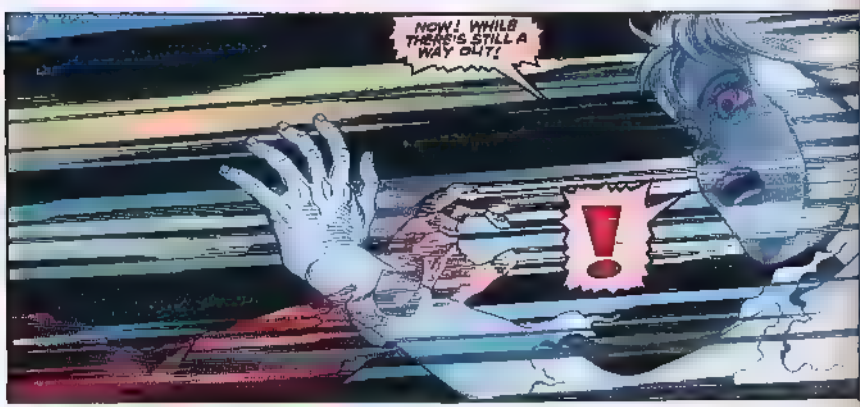
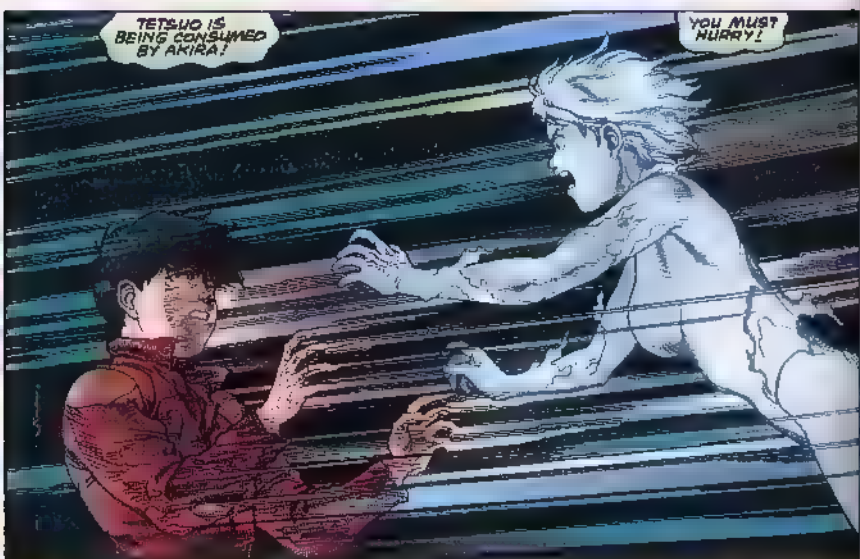
NE...

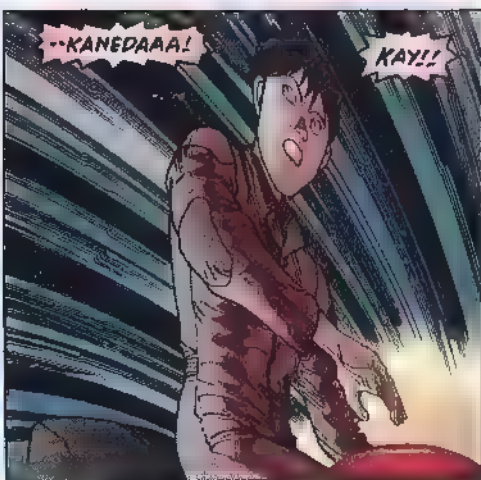
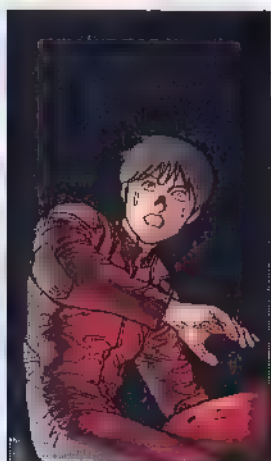
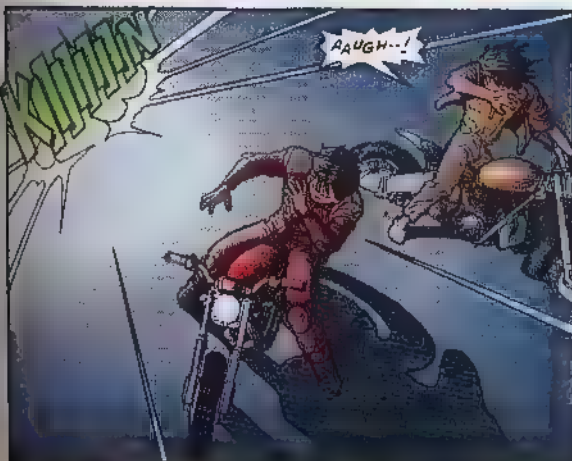


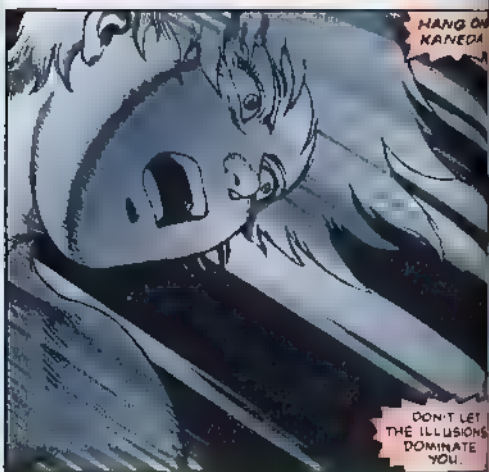
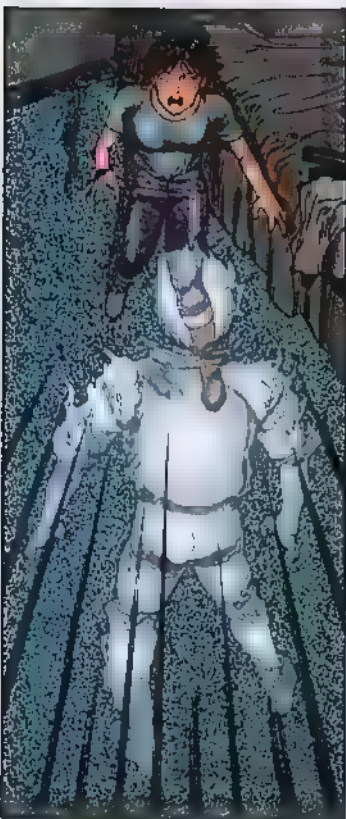
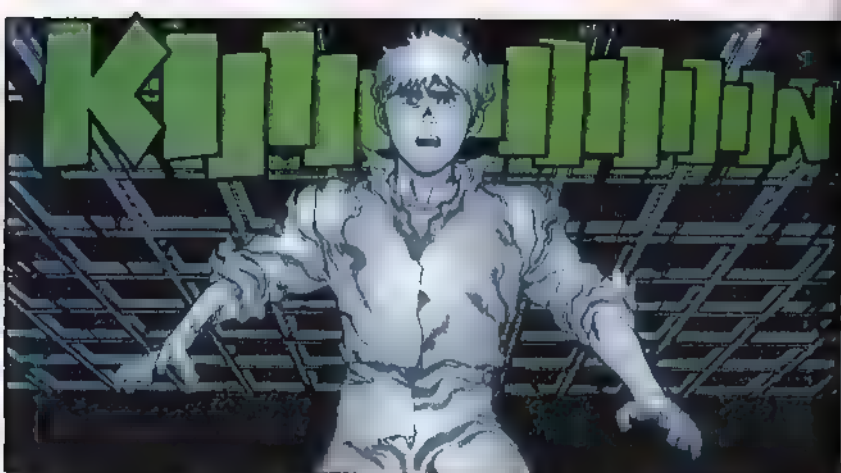
KANEDA!

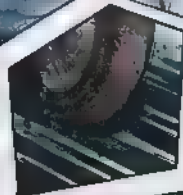
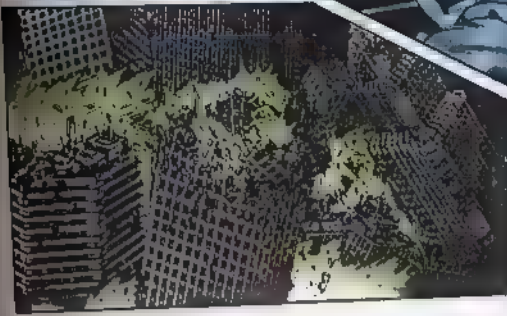
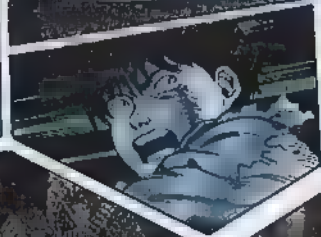
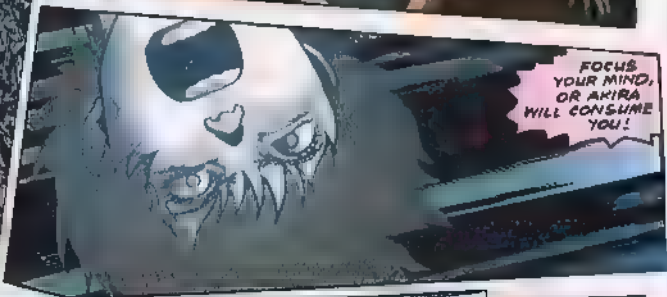
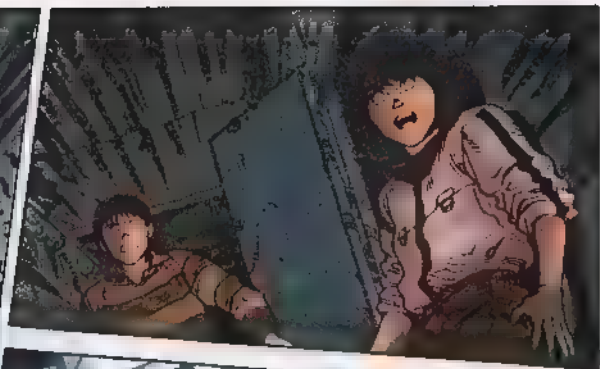
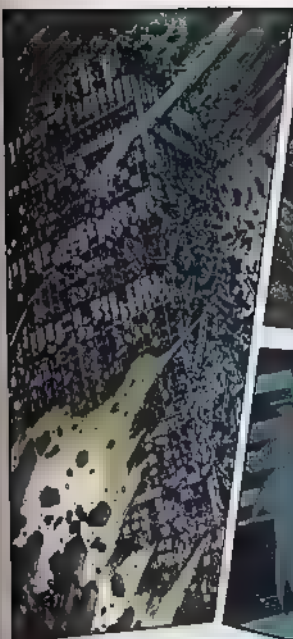
KAY!

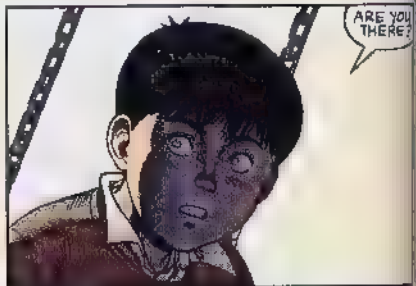
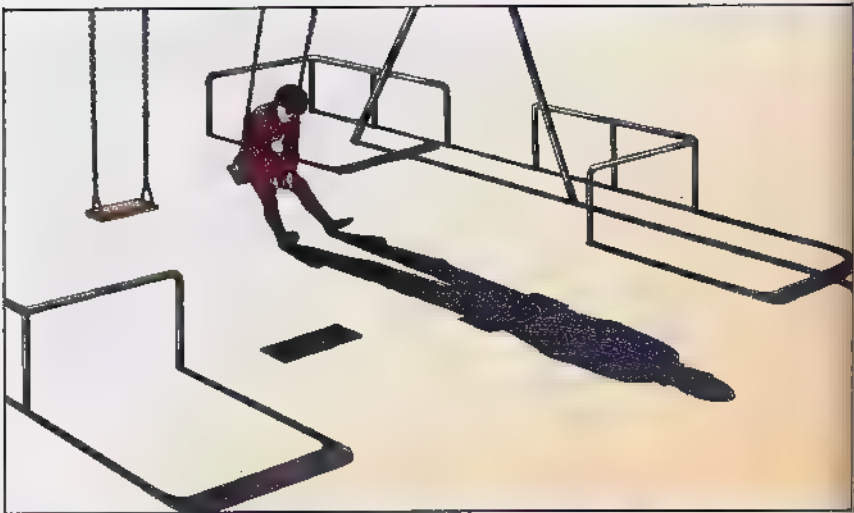


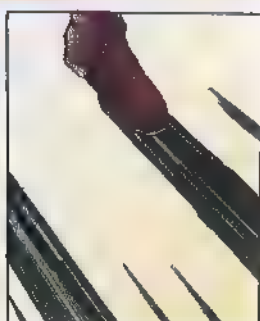
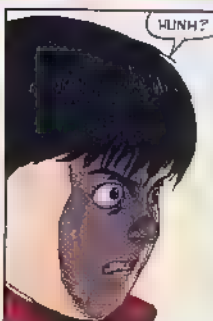
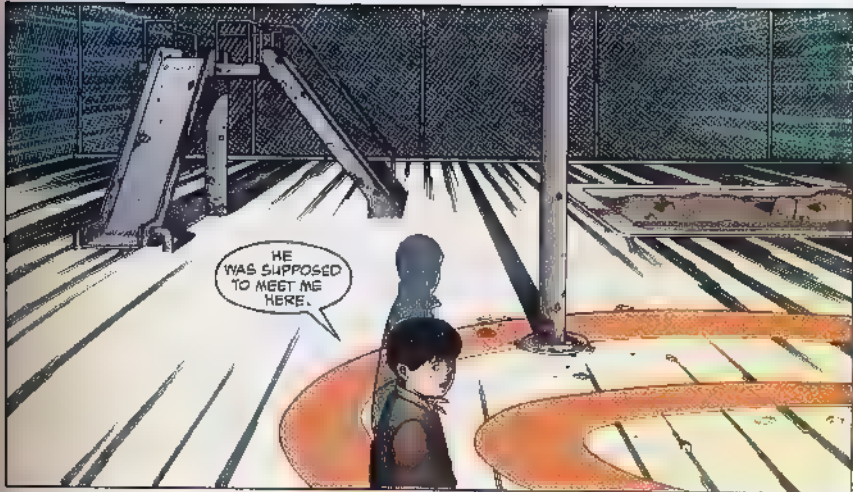


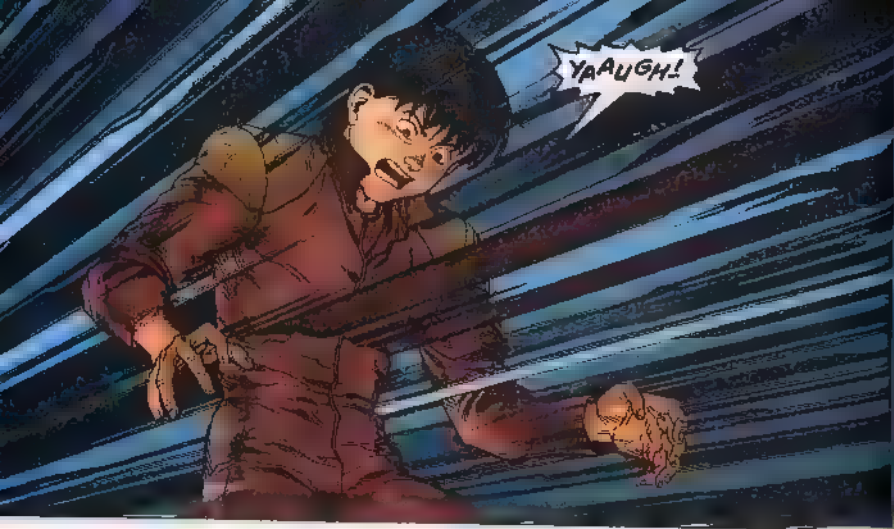






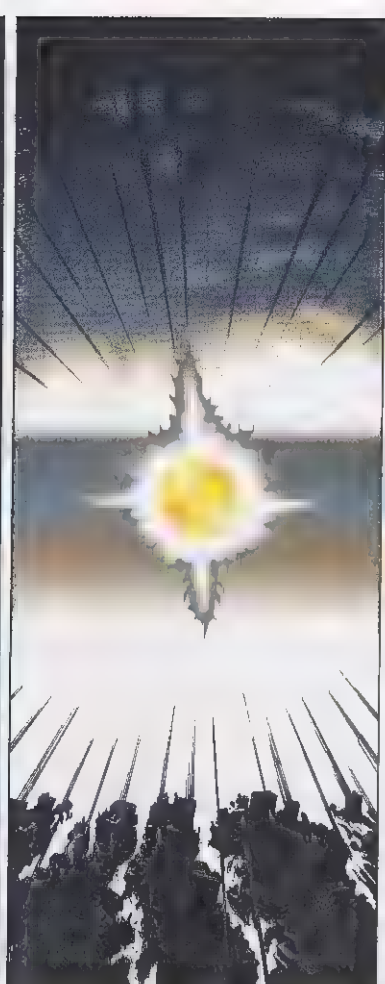


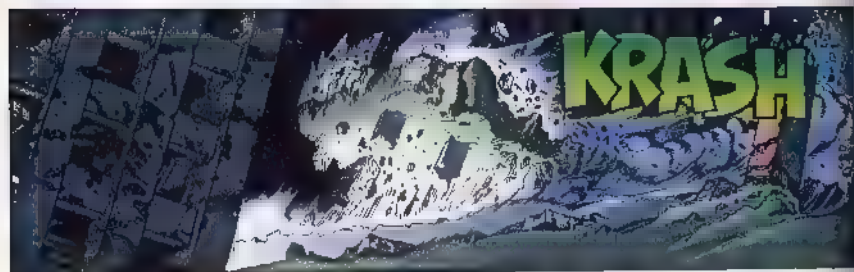
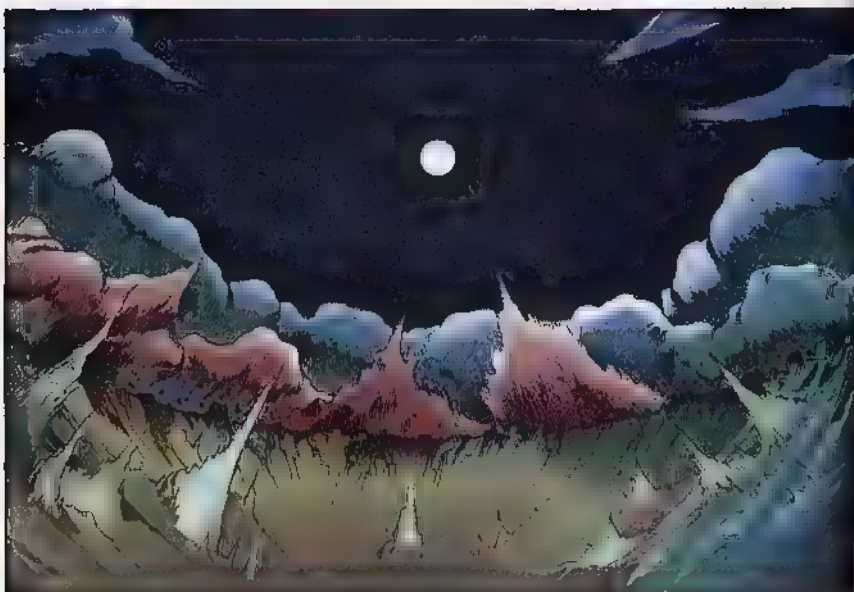




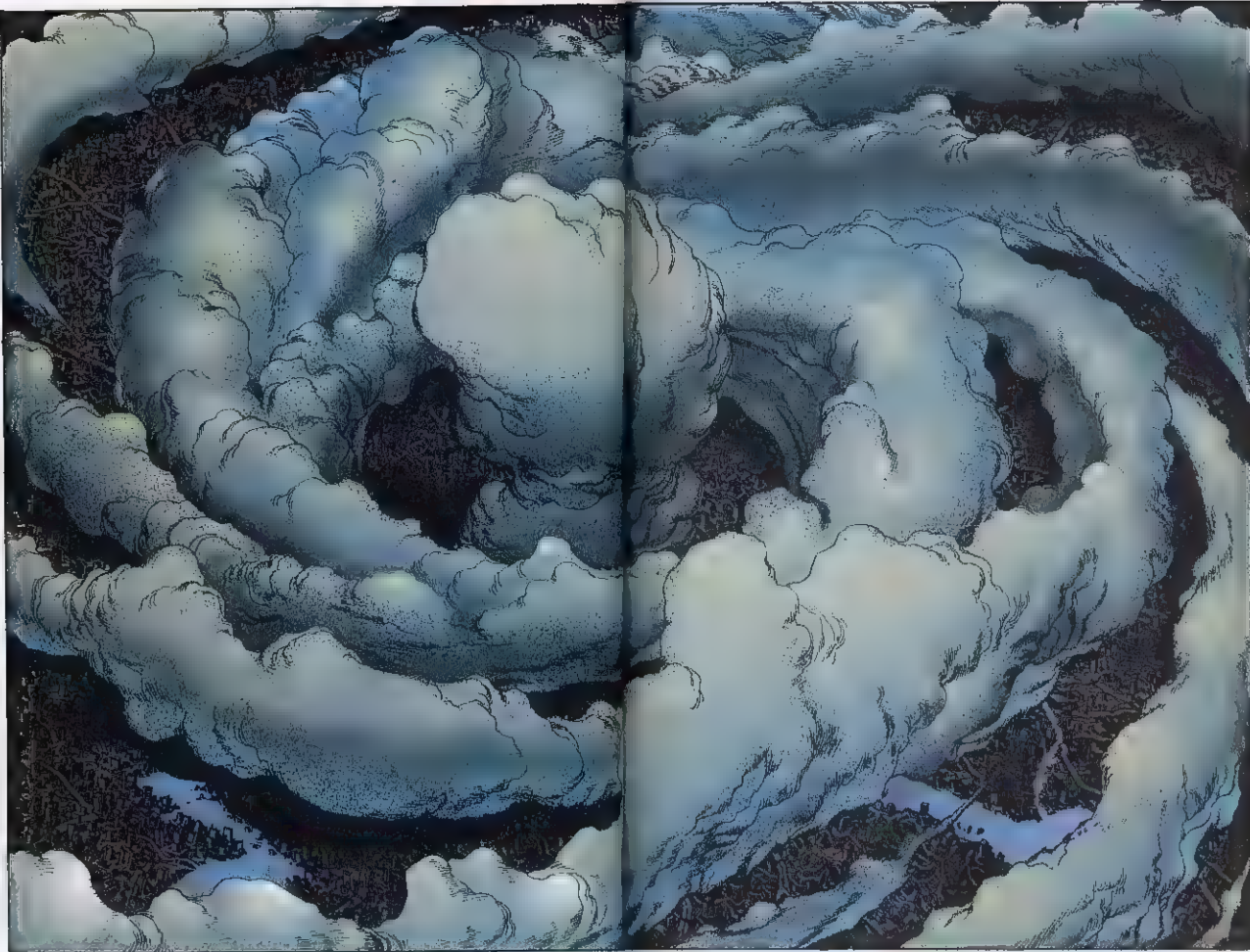
FOR YOUR CONRADES
WHO NEED YOU, YOU
MUST GO BACK!

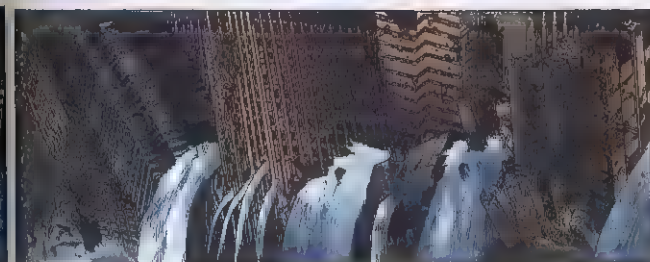
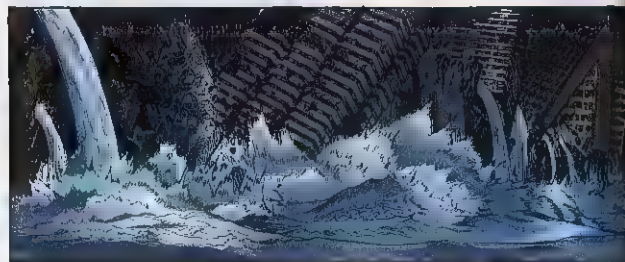
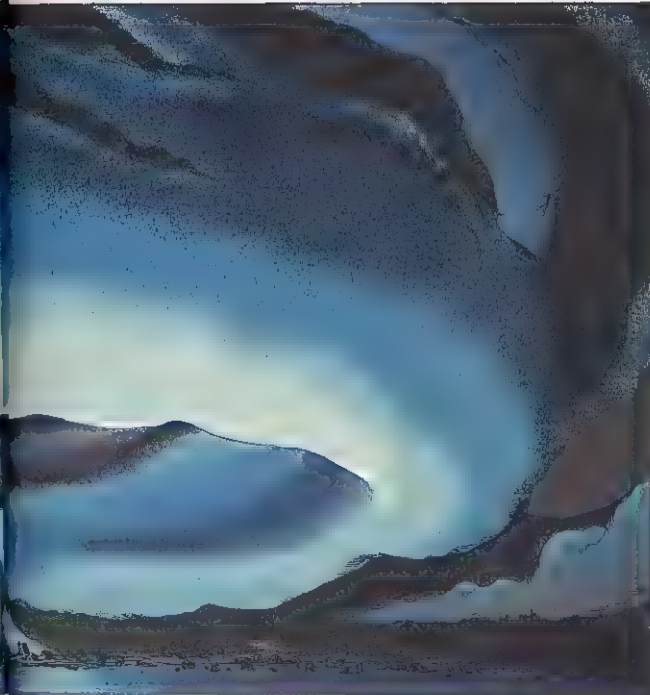
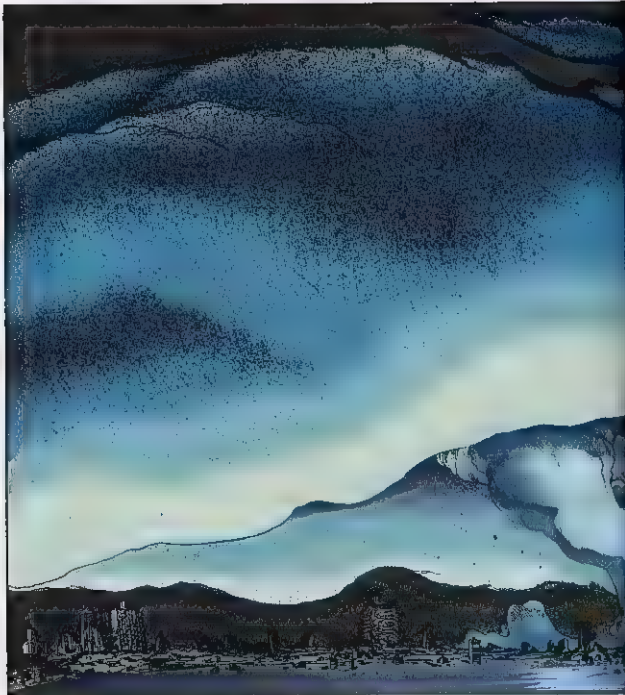


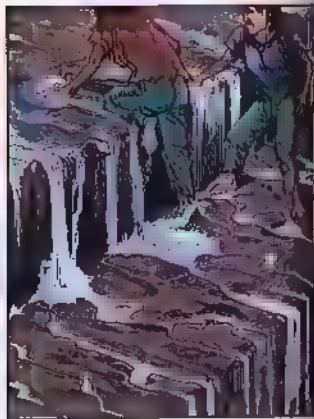
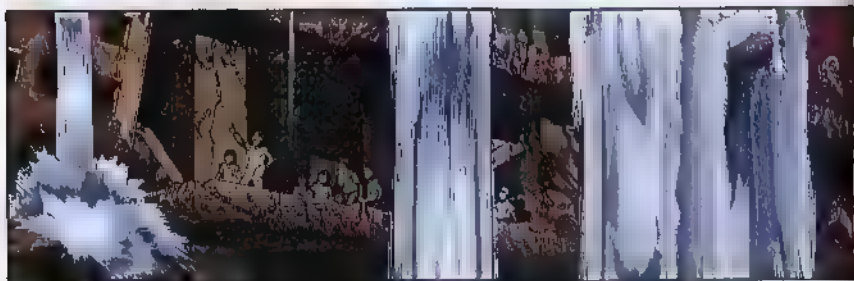
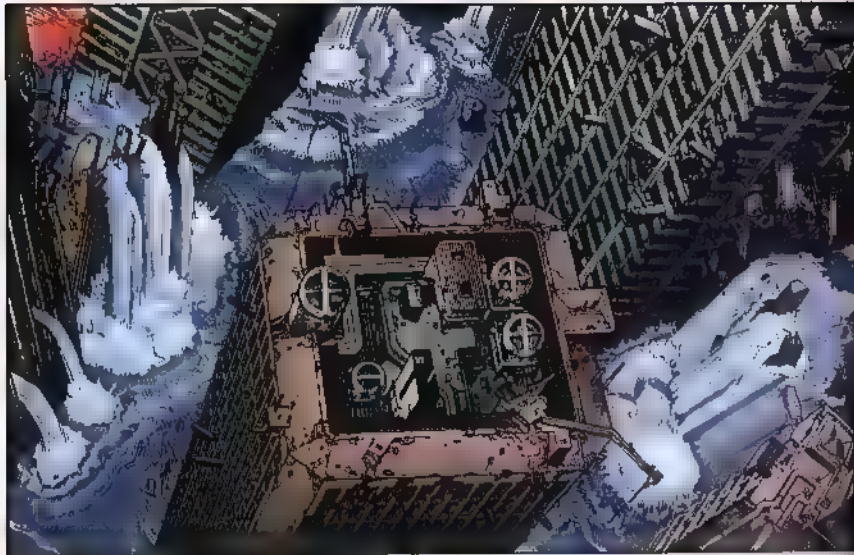


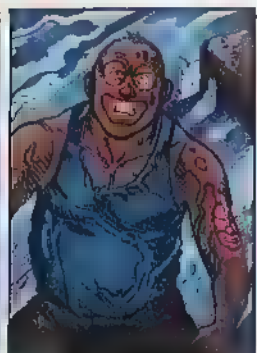
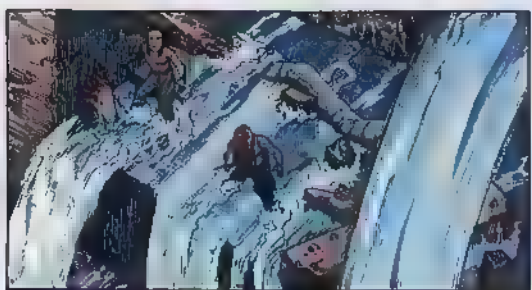
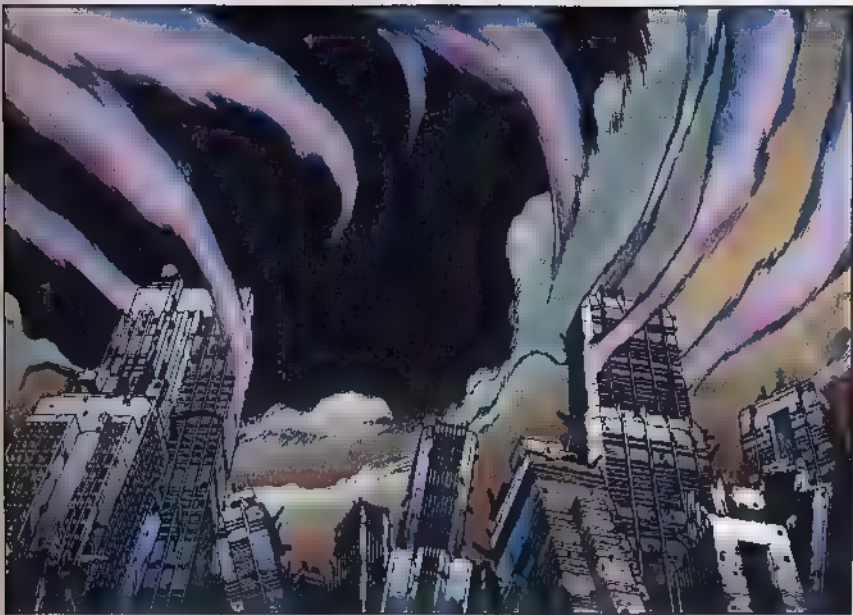


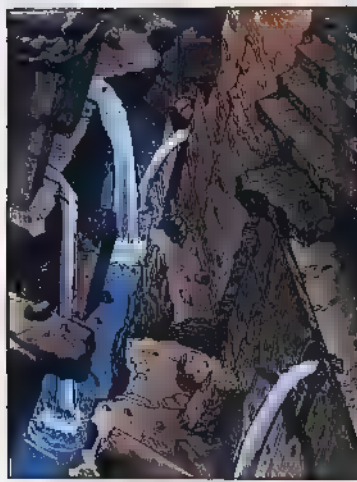
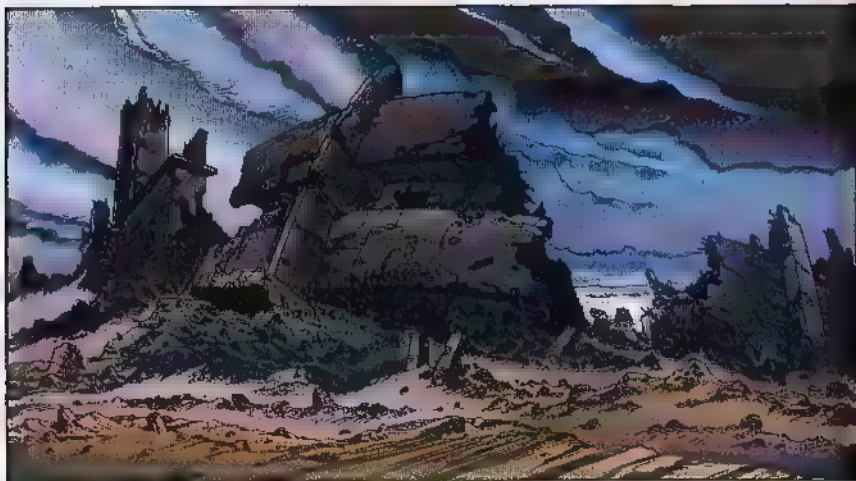


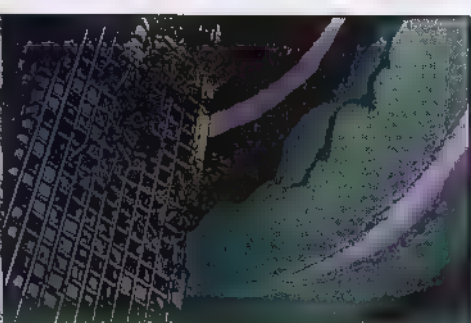
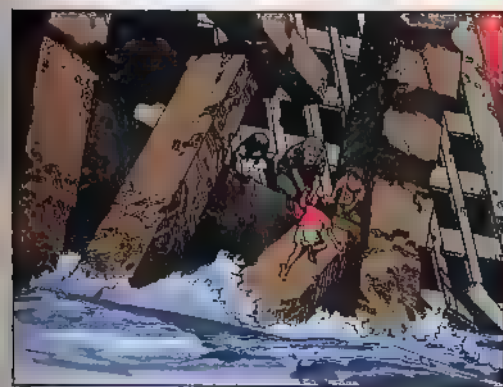
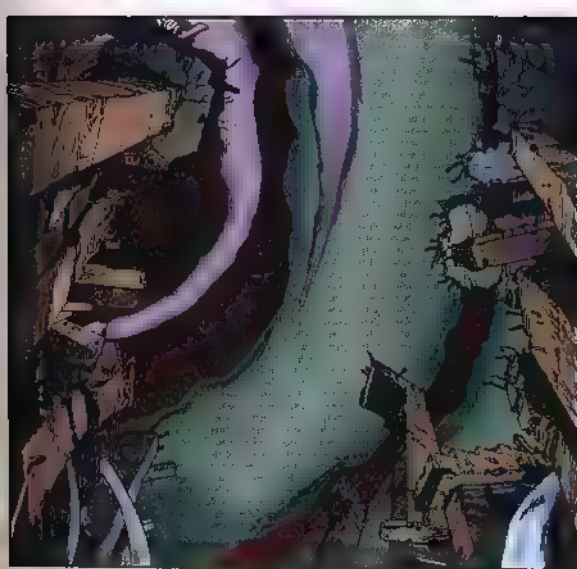


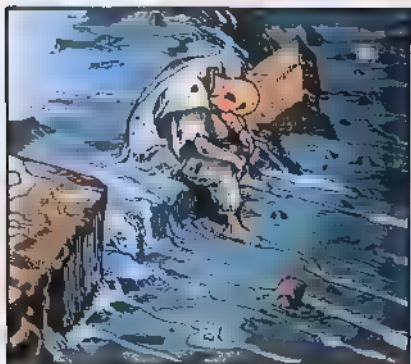
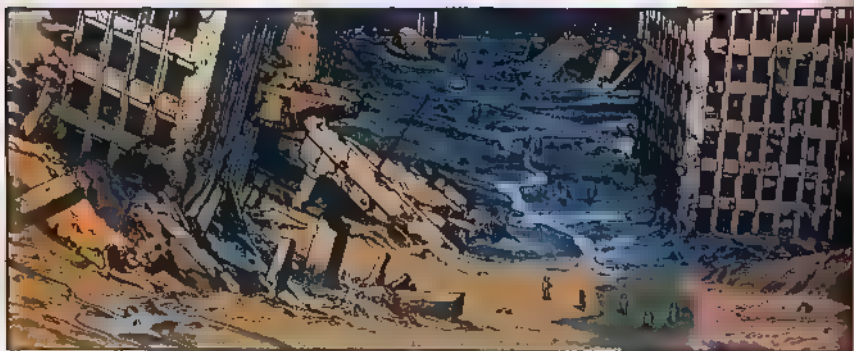
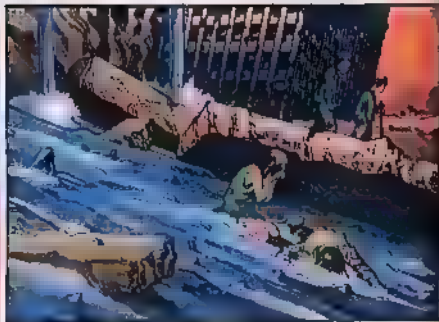
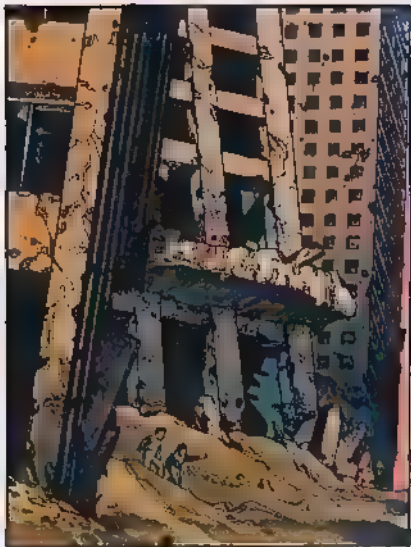


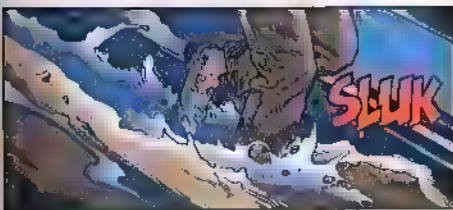


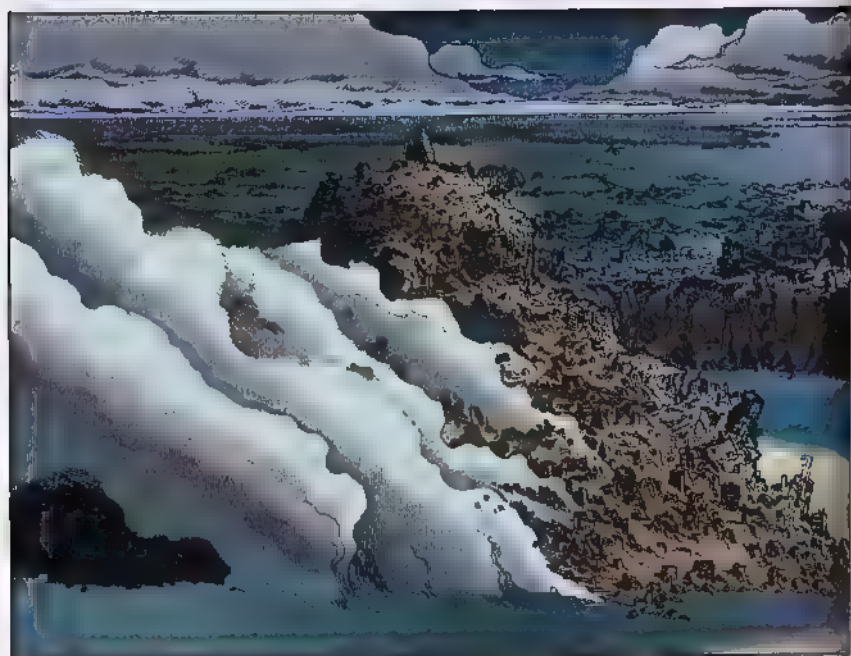


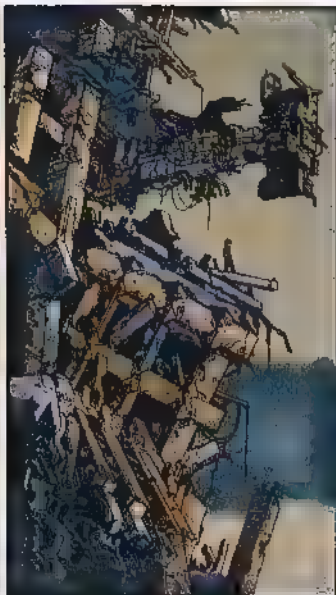


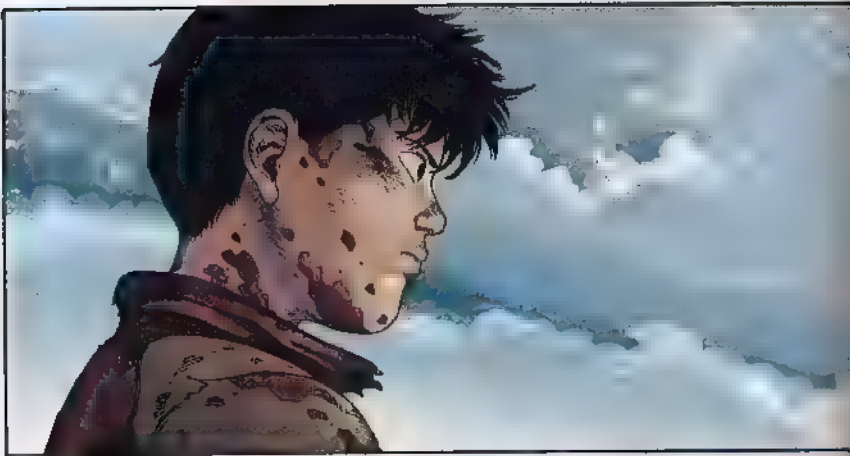






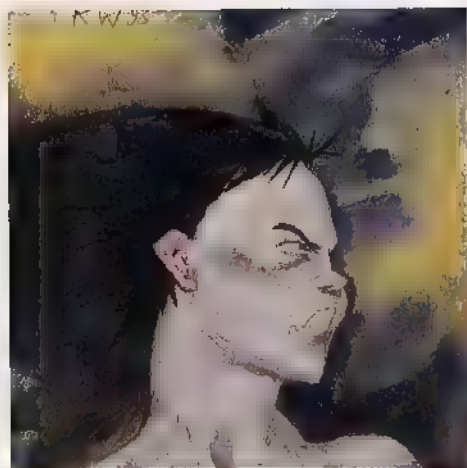








NEXT ISSUE: THE FINAL CHAPTER



AKIRA

TRIBUTES

FEATURING WORKS BY:

MARK TEXEIRA

JOE DUFFY

KENT WILLIAMS



YAMAGATA!

FINAL BETS

JO DUFFY
WRITER
MARK TEXEIRA
ARTIST

YAMAGATA...

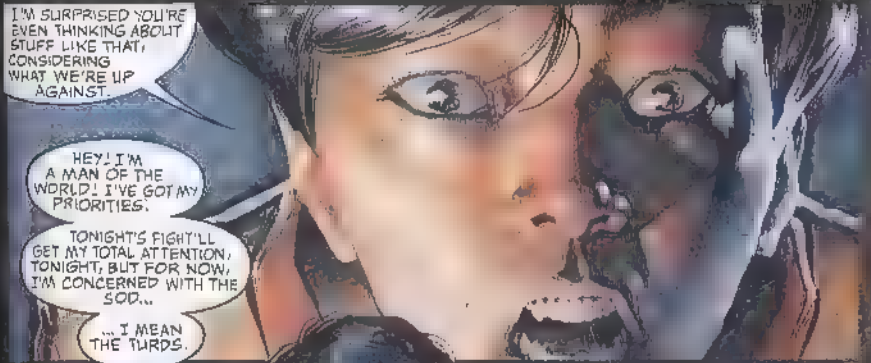
HEY!
YAMAGATA!

WHAT
IS IT,
KAI?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE
IN ANOTHER
WORLD

STUDYING
THE RACING FORM
TRYIN' T' FIGURE
WHO LOOKS GOOD IN
THE FIFTH?

CAN'T IT WAIT?
IF WE AREN'T IN
CLASS BEFORE THE
LAST BELL WE'RE
GONNA GET
NAILED



I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE
EVEN THINKING ABOUT
STUFF LIKE THAT,
CONSIDERING
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST.

HEY! I'M
A MAN OF THE
WORLD! I'VE GOT MY
PRIORITIES.

TONIGHT'S FIGHT'LL
GET MY TOTAL ATTENTION,
TONIGHT, BUT FOR NOW,
I'M CONCERNED WITH THE
SOD...

... I MEAN
THE TURDS.



YOU
MEAN THE
TURE.

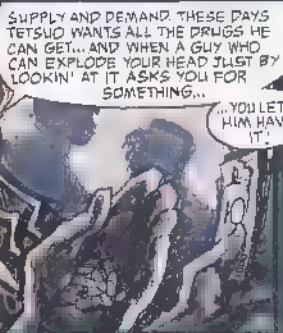
YEAH.
WHAT YOU
SAID.

KAI!
YAMAGATA! WHAT'S
THE WORD?



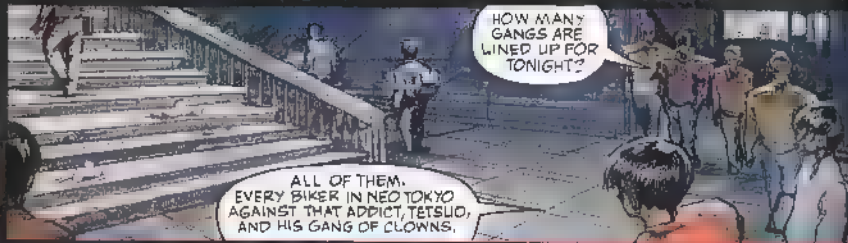
I WANT
THIRTY BUCKS
WORTH.

HEY: WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' T'PULL?
MY MONEY SHOULD BUY MORE THAN THAT!



SUPPLY AND DEMAND. THESE DAYS
TETSUO WANTS ALL THE DRUGS HE
CAN GET... AND WHEN A GUY WHO
CAN EXPLODE YOUR HEAD JUST BY
LOOKIN' AT IT ASKS YOU FOR
SOMETHING...

...YOU LET
HIM HAVE
IT!

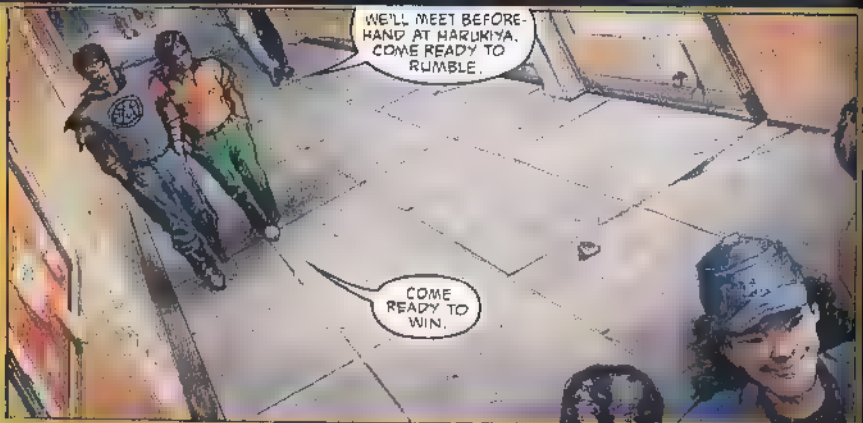


HOW MANY GANGS ARE
LINED UP FOR
TONIGHT?

ALL OF THEM.
EVERY BIKER IN NEO TOKYO
AGAINST THAT ADDICT, TETSUO,
AND HIS GANG OF CLOWNS.

AND
KANEDA'S OUR
LEADER, SO
WE'RE GONNA
KICK THEIR
BUTTS!

YEAHH!



WE'LL MEET BEFORE-
HAND AT HARUKIYA.
COME READY TO
RUMBLE.

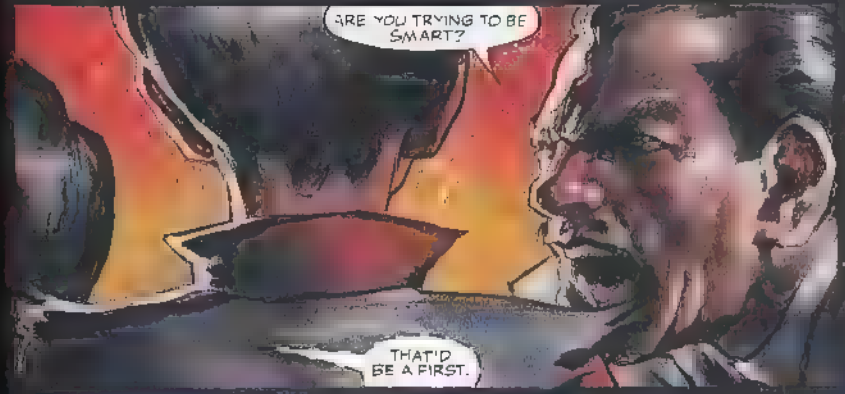
COME
READY TO
WIN.



MISTER YAMAGATA! CLASS IS ABOUT TO START.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING LOITERING IN THE HALLWAYS?

NOTHIN'. I AIN'T NO LOITER BUG.



ARE YOU TRYING TO BE SMART?

THAT'D BE A FIRST.



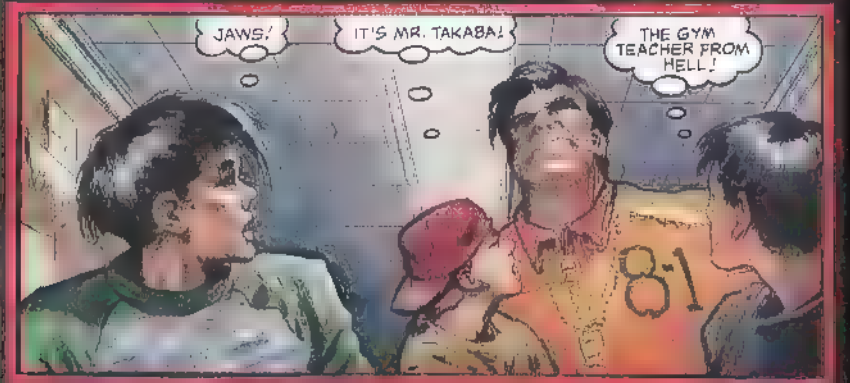
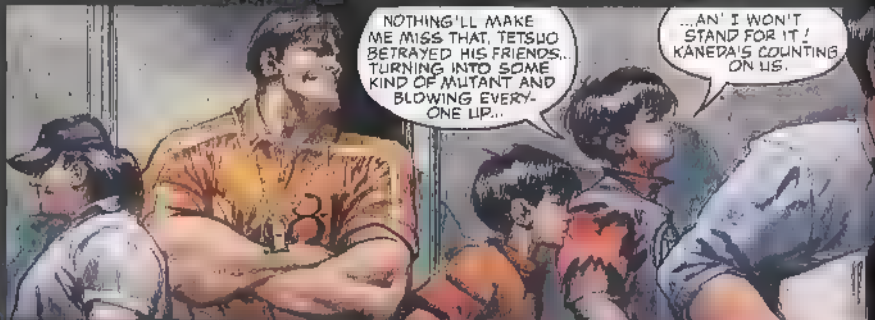
NO, *SIR*! I'M HEADING RIGHT TO CLASS...

EXCELLENT!

...AS SOON AS I GET A BET DOWN.



ARE YOU CRAZY? WHAT IF WE GET CAUGHT? YOU WANNA BE BUSTED BY A TEACHER AND MISS TONIGHT?

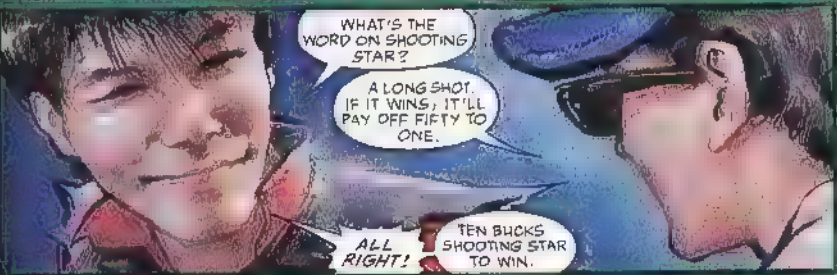




WHAT ODDS'RE YOU
OFFERING ON THE FIFTH
RACE?

LUCKY CHANCE IS
THE FAVORITE AT THREE
TO ONE.

COME
ON, YAMAGATA...
HURRY IT UP.



WHAT'S THE
WORD ON SHOOTING
STAR?

A LONG SHOT.
IF IT WINS, IT'LL
PAY OFF FIFTY TO
ONE.

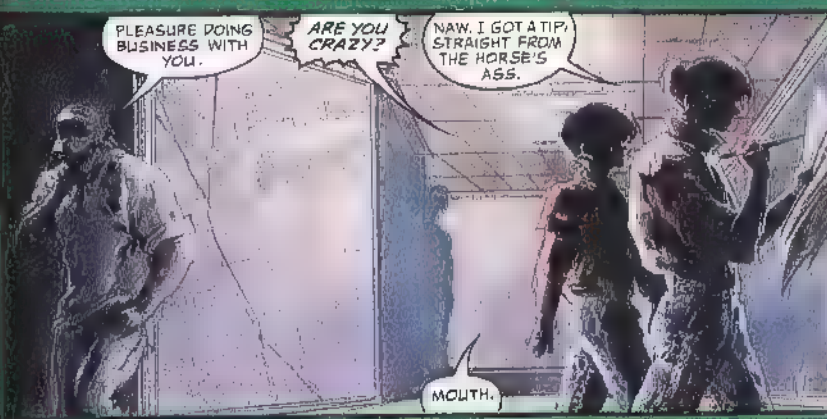
ALL
RIGHT!

TEN BUCKS
SHOOTING STAR
TO WIN.



IT'S YOUR
FUNERAL.

YOU WISH.



PLEASURE DOING
BUSINESS WITH
YOU.

ARE YOU
CRAZY?

NAW. I GOT A TIP,
STRAIGHT FROM
THE HORSE'S
ASS.

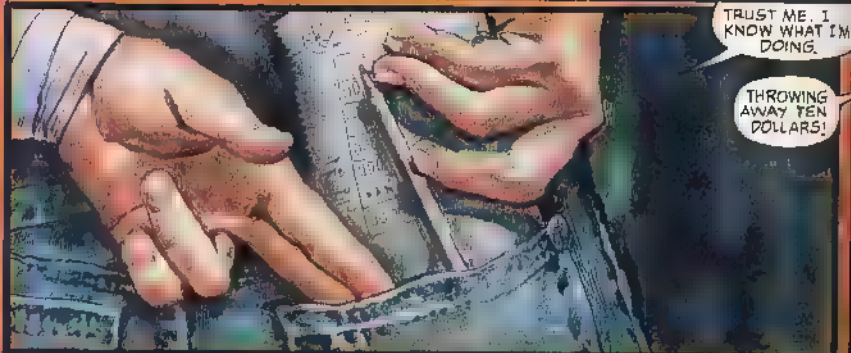
MOUTH.



HORSES DON'T
TALK.

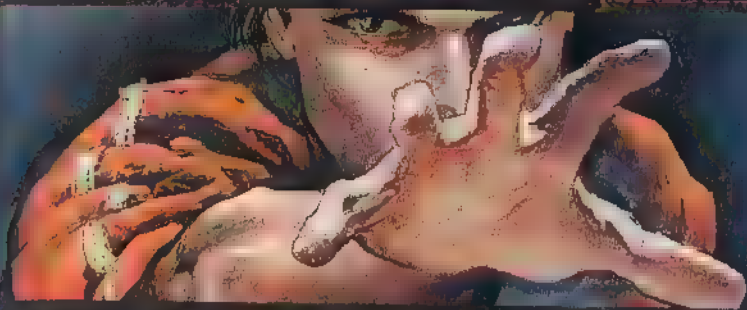
WITH EVIDENCE HE'S
BEEN GAMBLING RIGHT
IN HIS HANDS! HE CAN'T
WIGGLE OUT OF IT!

THIS IS
GOING TO BE SWEET



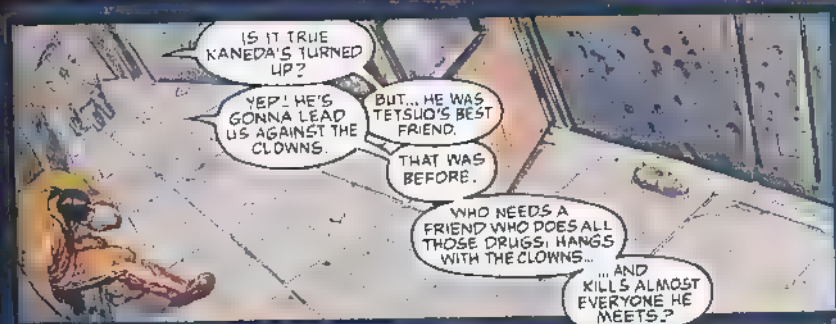
TRUST ME, I
KNOW WHAT I'M
DOING.

THROWING
AWAY TEN
DOLLARS!



I'M NOT GOING
TO LOSE.



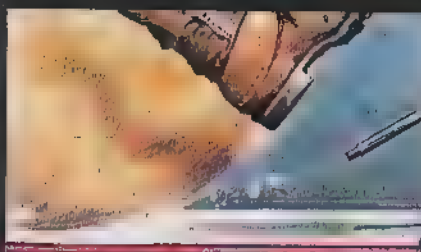




THE RACING
PAGES?

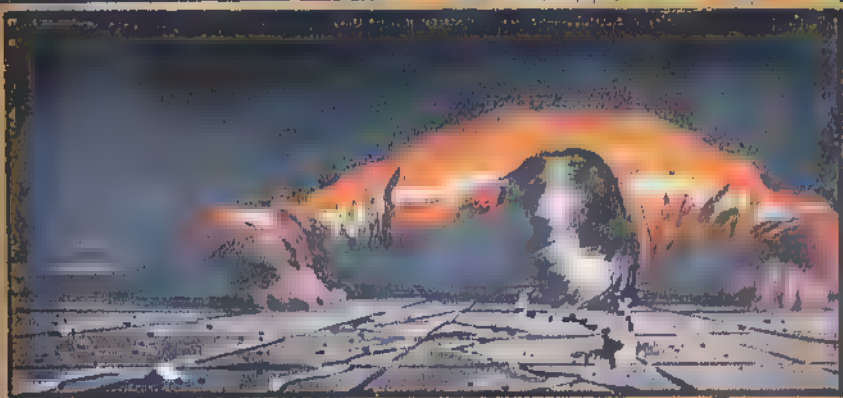
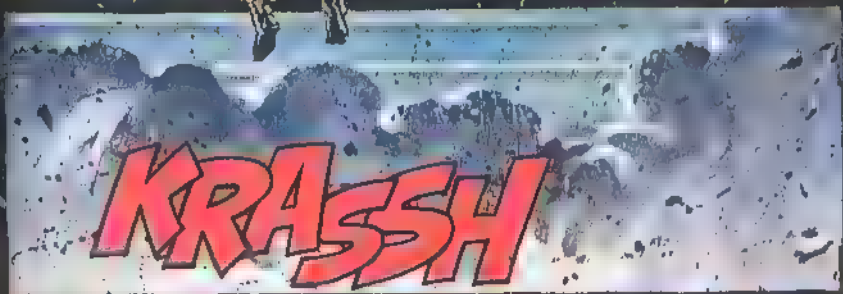
WHO
DO YOU
LIKE FOR
TODAY?

NOW!



NO...





SHOOTING STAR'S GONNA
PAY OFF BIG!

I COULD
FEEL IT FROM
THE MINUTE I
GOT OUT OF
BED.



TODAY'S
MY LUCKY
DAY.

TE...TETSUO...YOU
MOTHER...

YA--!!

YOU'RE
GONNA
DIE!!

AIEEE!

SPLUTCH



YAMAGATAA!!!



PUFF

PUFF

PUFF

**NEO TOKYO
SPORTS**

SHOOTING STAR WHIS FIFTH RACE, PAYS
OFF FIFTY TO ONE...

鉄雄は、五回戦で五十倍の
大勝ちを収めた。

THE END



DAVE
GIBBONS
1993

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designer • AUIRA • lithography

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Kodansha, Ltd.

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with LAURA BRADY

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POLLY WATSON

assistant editors

MARIE JAVINS

editor

CARL POTTS

editor in chief

There are secrets deep within the human soul that are at once divinely wonderful... and insanely terrifying. Journey with Kaneda, a young biker-turned-warrior, as he plumbs the depths of mystery in Neo-Tokyo. Young children are coddled and nurtured before being fed to experiments that will open their minds to the power of the cosmos. A young boy named Tetsuo stands alone on an inner-city playground, searching for a friend, wary of dangerous gangs lurking in the shadows. Fierce energies tear at the fabric of reality to reveal the wondrous next step in man's evolution.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



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DIRECT EDITION

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X-FUTURE

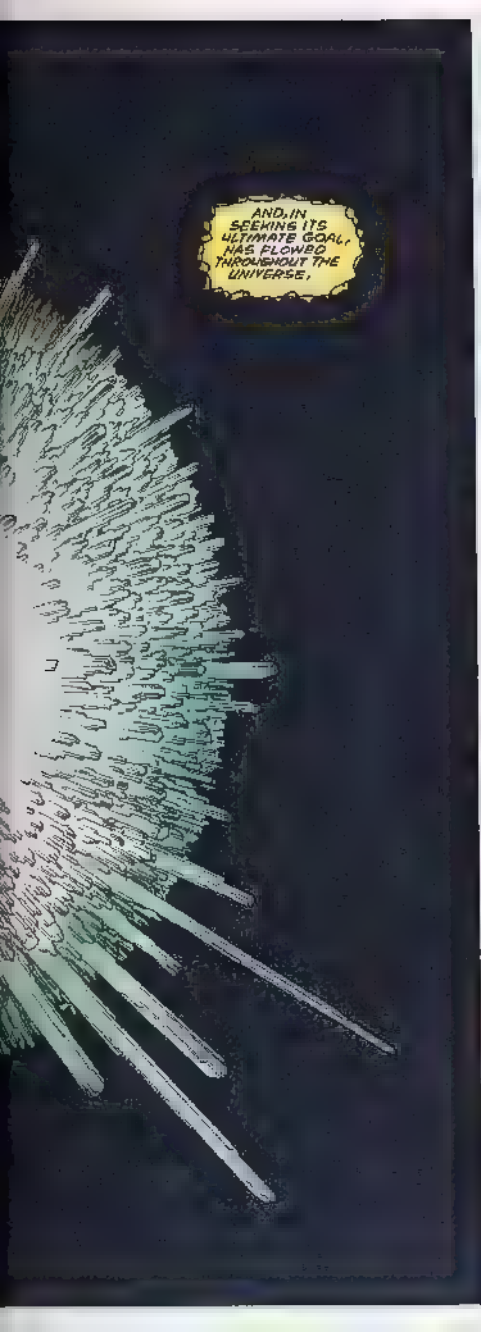
I love um

I buy um

I preserve um

ONE VAST
FORCE WAS
RELEASED...

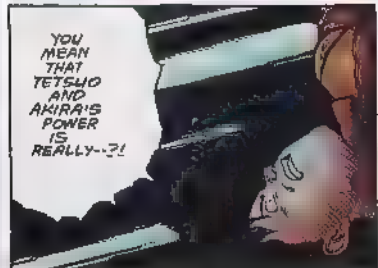




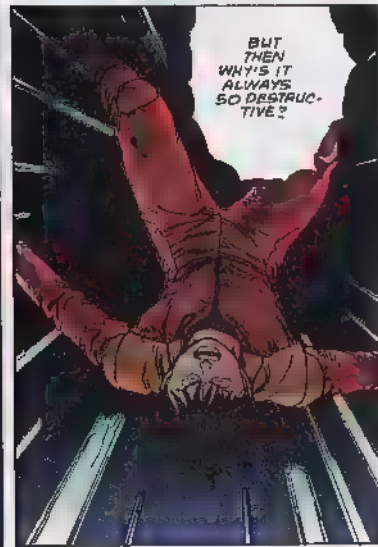
AND, IN
SEEKING ITS
ULTIMATE GOAL,
HAS FLOWED
THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSE,



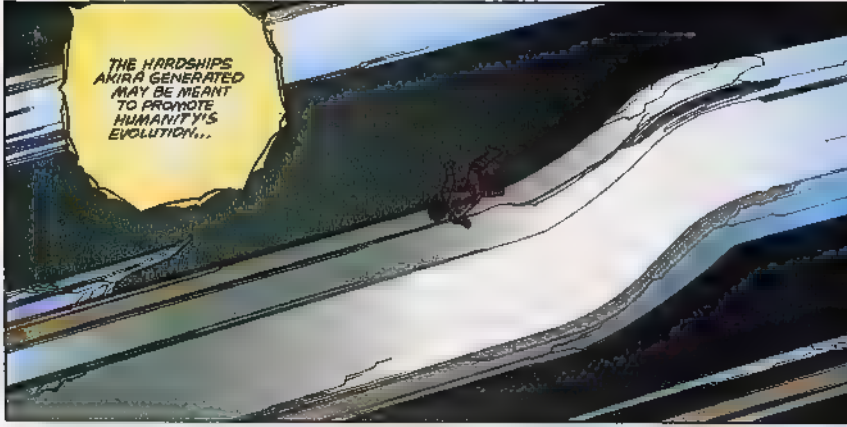
THE
POWER
HAS
DISSIPATED
AND SPREAD
TO MANY
OUTLETS...
ITS SEEDS
LYING
DORMANT
IN THEIR
INDIVIDUAL
MEMORIES.



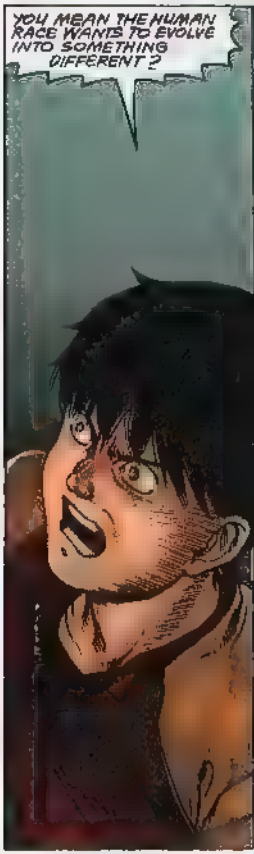
YOU
MEAN
THAT
TETSUO
AND
AKIRA'S
POWER
IS
REALLY-?!



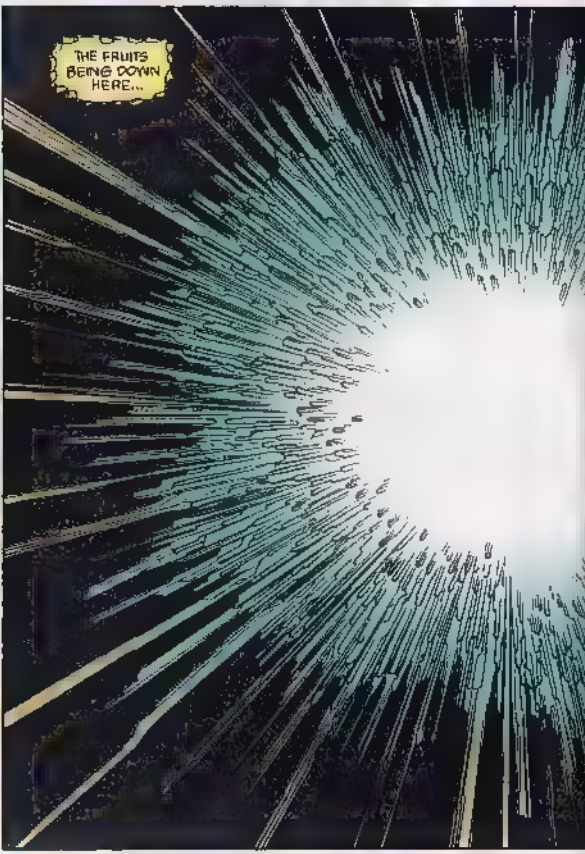
BUT
THEN
WHY'S IT
ALWAYS
SO DESTRUC-
TIVE?



THE HARDSHIPS
AKIRA GENERATED
MAY BE MEANT
TO PROMOTE
HUMANITY'S
EVOLUTION...



YOU MEAN THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO EVOLVE
INTO SOMETHING
DIFFERENT?



THE FRUITS
BEING DOWN
HERE...

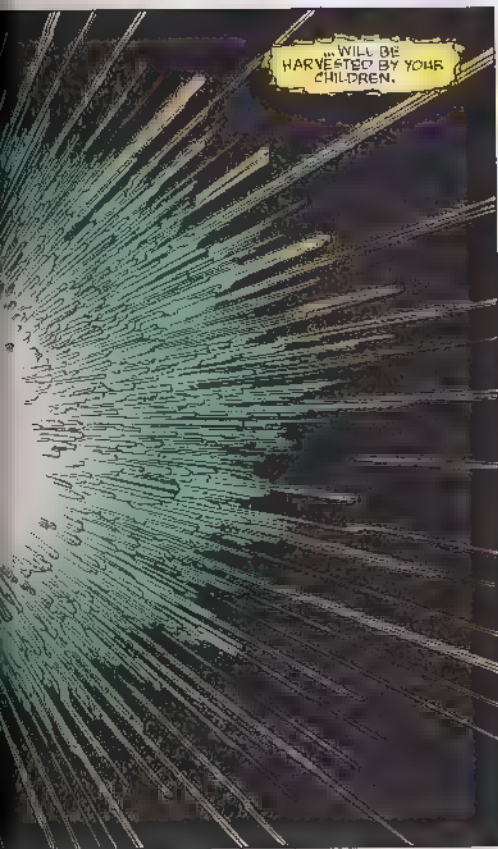
WHAT THE HELL FOR?!! EVEN EVOLUTION IS
A PROGRAMMED FLOW, ISN'T IT?!!



CAN YOU DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THE
HUMAN SPIRIT TO CHOOSE THE PATH
OUR DEVELOPMENT WILL FOLLOW?



...WILL BE
HARVESTED BY YOUR
CHILDREN.



THAT'S TOTAL BULLSHIT!
YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT
TETSUO AND THOSE
SHRIVELLED WHITE MUTANT
KIDS FROM THE LAB ARE
SOMETHING THE HUMAN
RACE WANTS TO BE!

